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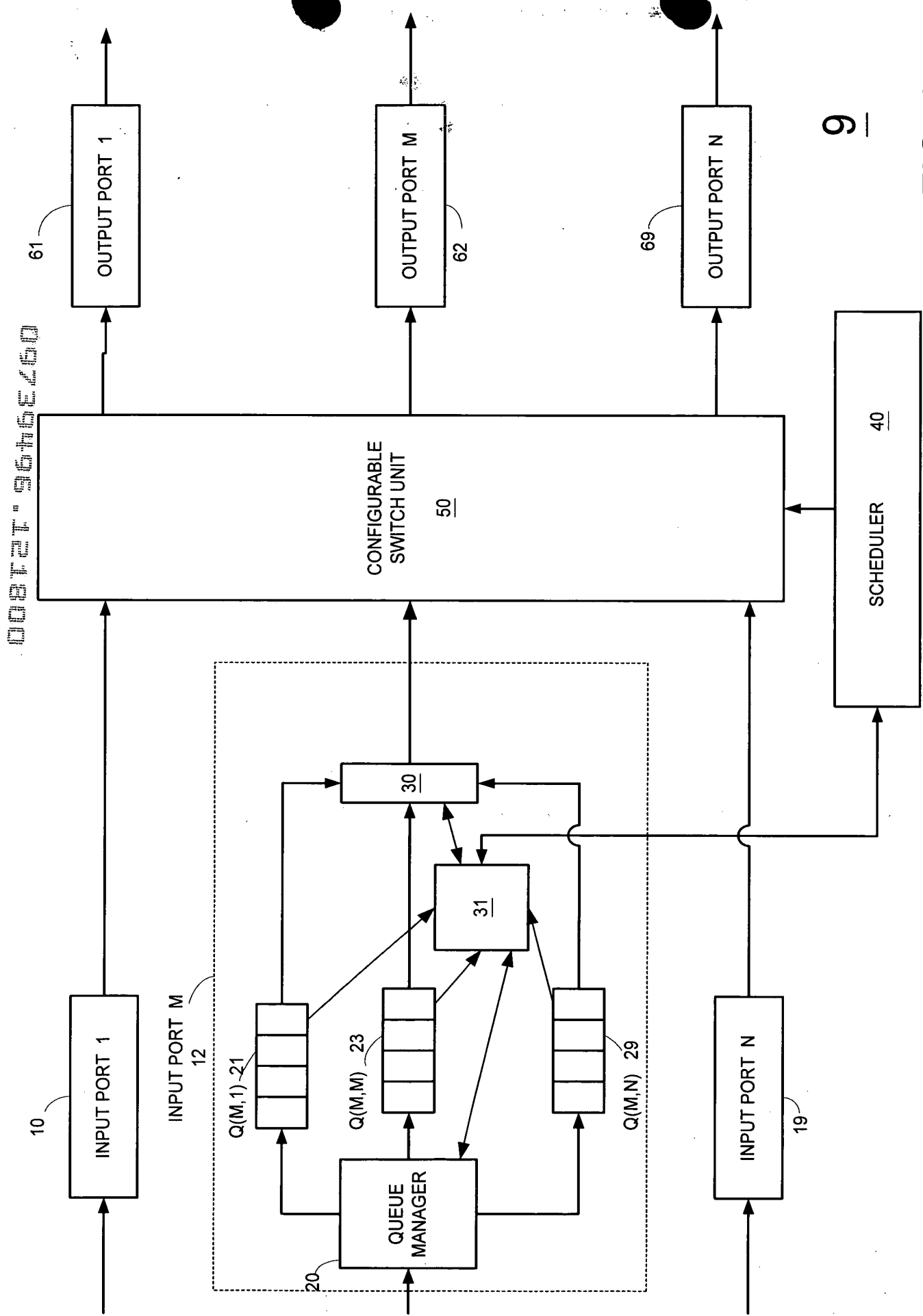
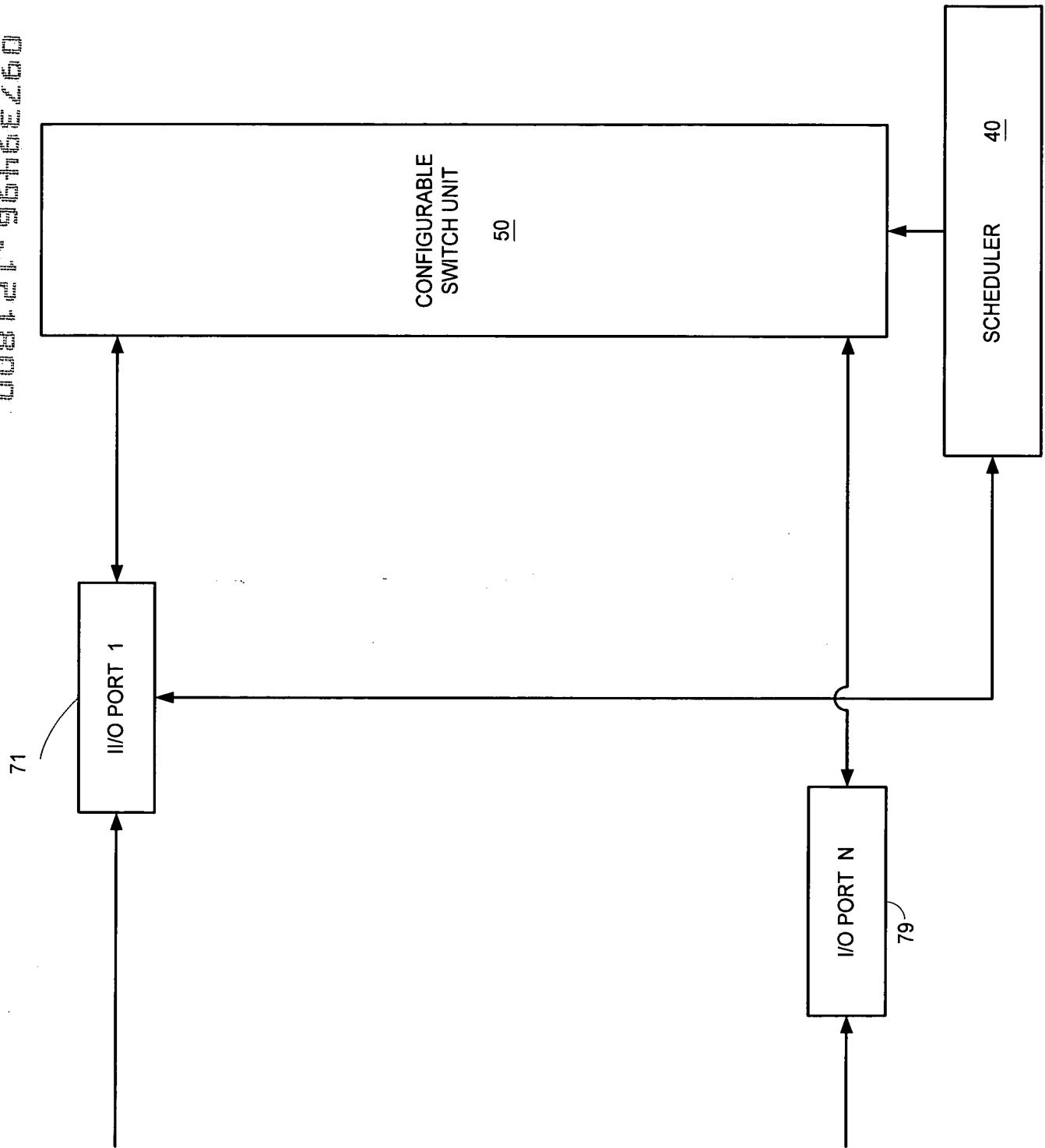


FIG. 1



9' —

FIG. 2

CHECKING, AT EACH TIME SLOT, FORWARDING REQUESTS TO FORWARD VARIABLE LENGTH PACKETS FROM SOURCE PORTS TO DESTINATION PORTS OF THE MULTI-PORT SWITCH, IGNORING FORWARDING REQUESTS FROM SOURCE PORTS AND DESTINATION PORTS THAT WERE PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED TO FORWARD AND RECEIVE ACCORDINGLY AT LEAST PORTIONS OF VARIABLE LENGTH PACKETS DURING THE NEXT TIME SLOT 111

SELECTING SELECTED FORWARDING REQUESTS OUT OF THE CHECKED FORWARDING REQUESTS  
112

CONFIGURING THE MULTI-PORT SWITCH FOR ALLOWING TO SERVICE THE SELECTED FORWARDING REQUESTS DURING THE NEXT TIME SLOT  
113

110

FIG. 3

PERIODICALLY CHECKING CONNECTION REQUESTS, EACH CONNECTION REQUEST REQUESTING TO COUPLE A DESTINATION PORT TO A SOURCE PORT FOR FORWARDING A VARIABLE LENGTH PACKET FROM THE SOURCE PORT TO THE DESTINATION PORT, IGNORING CONNECTION REQUESTS FROM SOURCE PORTS AND DESTINATION PORTS THAT ARE COUPLED DURING THE CURRENT TIME SLOT FOR FORWARDING VARIABLE LENGTH PACKETS THAT ARE SCHEDULED TO CONTINUE DURING THE NEXT TIME SLOT

121

PROCESSING THE CHECKED CONNECTION REQUESTS TO DETERMINE THE CONNECTIVITY OF THE CROSSBAR SWITCH DURING THE NEXT TIME

SLOT

122

PROVIDING CONTROL SIGNALS TO THE CROSSBAR SWITCH IN VIEW OF THE DETERMINATION

123

120

FIG. 4

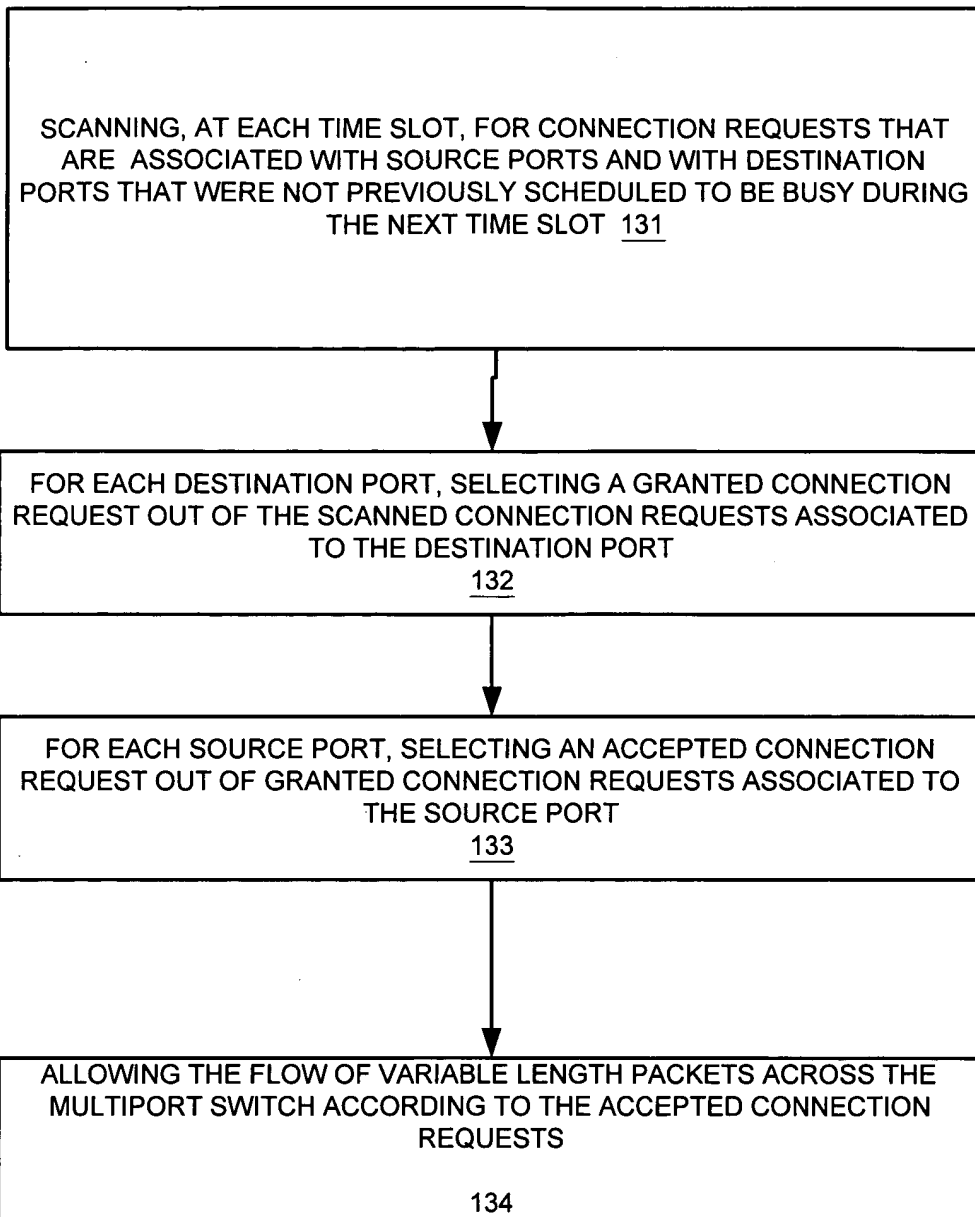
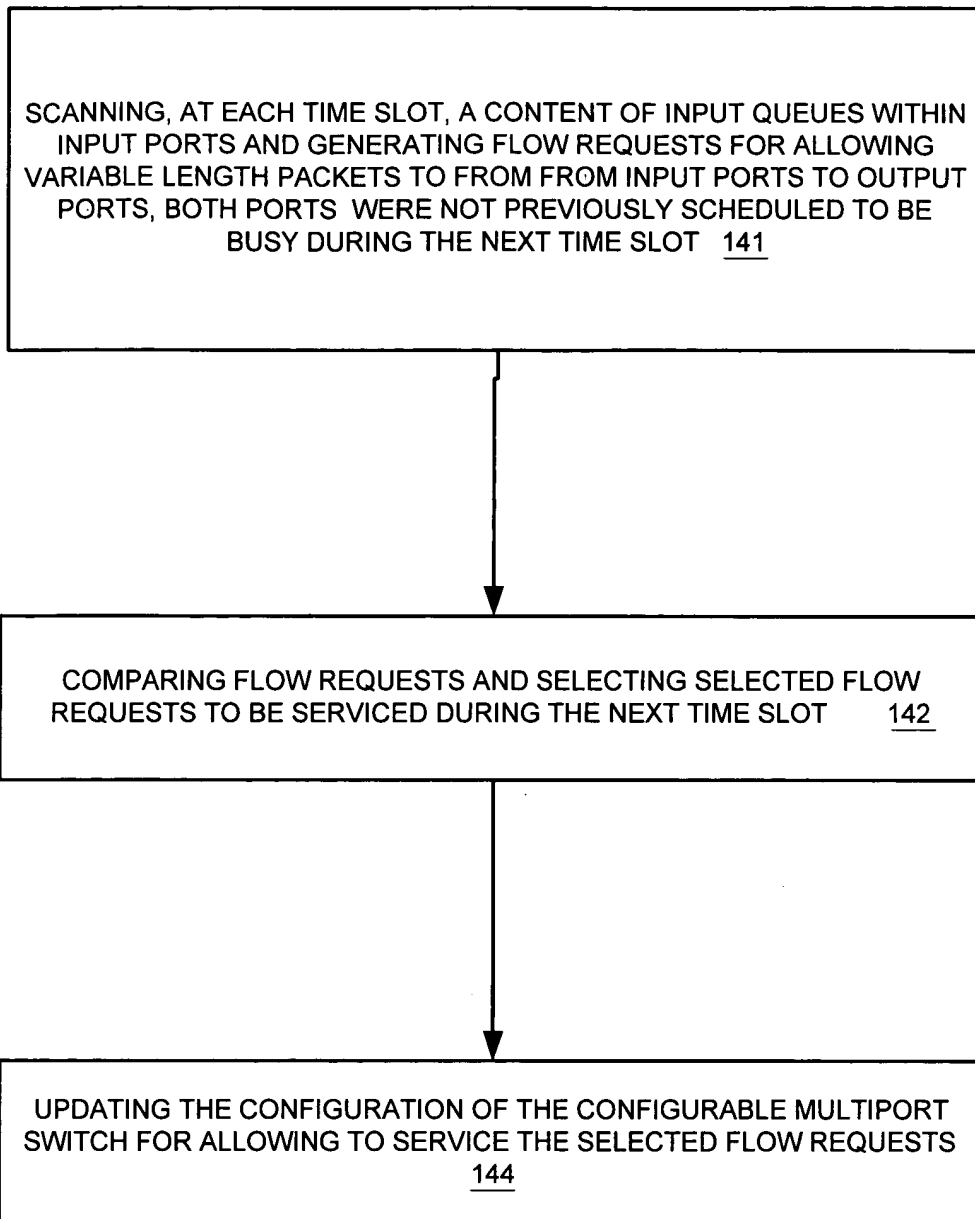


FIG. 5



140

FIG. 6